

MANITOBA HARM REDUCTION NETWORK BULLETIN

March 2005

The mandate of the Manitoba Harm Reduction Network is to provide consultation and make recommendations regarding the development, implementation and evaluation of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and Blood Borne Pathogens (BBP) prevention initiatives based on the principles of harm reduction for affected communities in Manitoba.

March & April Events:

- 3/29 Coordinating Cttee
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
705 Broadway
- 4/5 Education Task Group
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
705 Broadway
- 4/19 Policy Task Group
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
705 Broadway

MHRN 2005-06 Meeting Schedule
All task groups meet
Tuesday's from 1-3 pm @
Nine Circles Community Health Ctr.
705 Broadway

Coordinating Committee:

Last Tuesday of every second month
beginning March 29

Education Task Group:

First Tuesday of every second month
beginning April 5

Policy & Practice Task Group:

Third Tuesday of every second month
beginning April 19

Support/Outreach Task Group:

First Tuesday of every second month
beginning May 3

Communication Task Group:

Third Tuesday of every second month
beginning May 17

Update

- Thanks to all who participated in our Action Planning meeting. In particular we'd like to thank all the facilitators, the task group leaders and all who presented. The next step will be to pull together all the information into a final report that you can all use as you start on or continue on with the task groups activities. The final report will be distributed to all members of the MHRN by the end of March 2005.
- The launch of the MHRN website has been delayed until March 14. Once its up – you will be able to visit the website at: www.manitobaharmreduction.mb.ca Any feedback or comments on the site's content or format can be sent to Bohdanna@mts.net This is a work in progress and your ideas, thoughts and suggestions are greatly appreciated.
- **Membership list follow up:** Attached to this bulletin is the updated membership list. Please review the membership and email or phone Bohdanna if there are any changes. As well, we will be following up with all members of the task groups shortly to confirm that you are willing to be an active member or would prefer to be considered a member at large. Meeting schedules are listed to the left of this section – please review and mark your calendars accordingly.

Conferences

6th Annual Alberta Harm Reduction Conference

March 22nd – 24th, 2005

Grand Prairie, Alberta

<http://www.albertaharmreduction.com/>

15th Annual North American Syringe Exchange Convention

April 21st – 23rd, 2005

Tacoma Washington

www.nasen.org

Aboriginal Hepatitis C Conference

May 1st to 4th, 2005

Regina, SK.

www.allnationshope.ca

1-877-210-7622

Canadian AIDS Society Skills Building Symposium

October 27 – 30th, 2005

Montreal, QC

www.hivaid-skills.ca

Aboriginal Strategy on HIV/AIDS

In December 2004, the Manitoba government distributed copies of *As Long as the Waters Flow: An Aboriginal Strategy on HIV/AIDS – A Component of Manitoba's Provincial AIDS Strategy*. The strategy identifies the following four guides for action: prevention and education; care, treatment and support; coordination of services; and research and evaluation.

In order to fully involve community stakeholders in the implementation of these actions, Manitoba Health has established an interim Implementation Advisory Committee. The committee includes representation from Aboriginal people living with HIV/AIDS (APHAs), provincial and federal governments, Manitoba Health's Communicable Disease Control (CDC) Unit; community-based AIDS service organizations, First Nations communities and Manitoba Regional Health Authorities (RHAs). The committee's initial responsibilities will be to review the strategy document and establish terms of reference. Also, the committee will be participating in the implementation of one of the priority actions, an Environmental Scan of Existing HIV/AIDS Services and Programs Geared Toward Aboriginal Populations.

The Aboriginal Health Branch, Manitoba Health is leading the implementation of the strategy. For more information contact Albert McLeod, Policy Analyst, at 788-6635 or by email at amcleod@gov.mb.ca.

New or Useful Harm Reduction Resources

Links:

[Canadian Harm Reduction Network](#)

[Harm Reduction Coalition](#)

[Canadian HIV/AIDS Clearinghouse](#)

[VANDU](#)

If you know of any resources that everybody should know about, please forward to Bohdanna for inclusion in the next issue.

Persons who fail to disclose their HIV/AIDS status: Conclusions reached by an expert working group Report is available at

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/05vol31/dr3105ea.html>

Harm Reduction Bibliography:

<http://update.webwizmedia.com/admin/afm/pdf/HarmredOct2004.pdf>

Contract Opportunities

Contractor to Assess the Northern AIDS Initiative Project

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), Manitoba and Saskatchewan is seeking the services of an experienced Contractor to assess PHAC's investment of approximately \$250,000.00 in Thompson, Manitoba and the surrounding area over the past five years. The PHAC, has specifically, been investing in the Northern AIDS Initiative (NAI) project, and wants to undertake this assessment to confirm the most effective use of limited funds. As well the PHAC would like to identify the areas that need future concentration and the stakeholders who would be best positioned to provide these services in Thompson.

Contract Term: Approximately 3 months from anticipated start date of April 11, 2005.

See attached for more info or contact Myrna Majano at 984-4258 or Rhonda Chorney after March 29th at 983-2557